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January 31, 1950.

Miss Phyllis J. Fried,  
96 Avenue C,  
New York 9, N.Y.

Dear Miss Fried:

Dr. Brink, chairman of this department, has referred your application to me. I was pleased to note your emphasis on your interest in physiological genetics, and in bacterial genetics, for these are precisely the major directions of our interest and research program.

There are a few things that you can do now that would facilitate the consideration of your application? Firstly, your forms, as submitted, lacked a small photograph. If you can supply this, I will have it attached so as to complete the application formalities. Secondly, I would appreciate it if you would ask Dr. Fogel to address his letter of recommendation to me. Finally, as it will necessarily be some time before your transcripts of academic record will be brought to my attention, could you briefly summarize the scope and depth of your experience and interest in the sciences, and in particular, in bacteriology and genetics.

Aside from your present application, have you considered applying for admission to the Graduate School for the coming semester? This might shorten your residence by as much as a year. In making this suggestion, I cannot assure you of financial support either for the present, or such as might attend the success of your current application. However, some limited support might be available on short notice if your abilities seemed to warrant it. Classes begin February 6, so that it would be necessary to act promptly if you decided on this action. I am enclosing an application form for admission to the Graduate School, for your convenience if you do not already have one. If you are well recommended, and a "sum laude" as well, it is very likely that you would be readily admitted.

Yours sincerely,

Joshua Lederberg  
Assistant Professor of Genetics